

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/711,993

Examiner

Alexander Grosz

Applicant(s)

HOFFMAN, SUZANNE

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/9/05
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-6, 11-14, 17, 18, 15, 16, 20 Revising to 1-13
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
- Paper No./Mail Date 5/7/06
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5/7/06
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Tarbet on 5/5/06.

On page 5, line 4, delete "and 14b", in line 9, delete " 14b and 14b' ";

In line 10 delete "14a and 14a' "; in lines 10 and 12, change "15f" to -15e-; in line 11, change "surface 14b and 14b' " to -surfaces -; in lines 14 and 15 change " wall 14b" to -walls-; and in line 14 delete "15a".

In claim 1, line 3, after "and" insert -a plurality of integral, radially compressible -; in line 8, delete "and"; in line 11, after "curvature" insert - a plurality of transverse ribs are removably attached between the arch ribs, and separable fastener means adapted to removably attach the transverse ribs to the arch ribs-.

Cancel claims 2,3,7-10,19.

In claim 4, line 1, change "2" to -1- and change "-rib is" to - ribs are-; in line 2 change "- rib" to -ribs-.

In claim 5, line 1, change "-rib has a cylinder " to- ribs have a circular cross section-.

In claim 6, lines 1 and 2, change " -rib has a cylinder shape" to - ribs have a circular cross section-.

In claim 13, lines 1-4, change "comprising a mat.....playground has" to –  
according to claim 1, further comprising-.

In claim 15, line 2, change "underneath surface" to –base-.

In claim 20, line 1, change "19" to –13-, and in line 2, change "the cylindrical " to  
–a-.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and  
agreed upon by applicant: replacement drawings will be provided in which Figs. 1,4 and  
5 will be identified as figures 1A, 1B and 1C respectively. In order to avoid  
abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon  
drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: On 5/5/06,  
Mr. Tarbet and I discussed the invention, the claims, and the very crowded prior art of  
record, cited on attached PTO 892, and agreed that it does not teach or suggest the  
very specific structure of claim 1, as above amended, especially the compressible  
transverse ribs in combination with separable fasteners and the arch ribs attached to  
the inner wall surfaces.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later  
than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably  
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on  
Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Grosz whose telephone number is 571-272-7041. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Suzanne Barrett can be reached on 571-272-7053. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alexander Grosz  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3673

5/10/06  
ag